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(54) Title: **TRICYCLIC HYDROXAMATE AND BENZAMIDE DERIVATIVES, COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds and methods for inhibiting histone deacetylase enzymatic activity. The present invention also pertains to pharmaceutical compositions comprising such compounds, and the use of such compounds and compositions, both in vitro and in vivo, to inhibit histone deacetylases (HDACs), and in the treatment of conditions mediated by HDAC, cancer, proliferative conditions, psoriasis, and also central nervous system diseases. It further deals with processes for preparing said compounds.

WO 2005/058803 A1